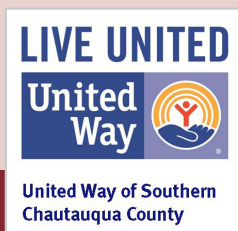


# *Women and Girls*

IN CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY • 2013



**United Way of Southern Chautauqua County**

413 North Main Street • Jamestown, NY 14701 • 716 483-1561 • [www.uwayscc.org](http://www.uwayscc.org)



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# INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to provide credible, unbiased data on the status of the women and girls living in Chautauqua County relative to the nation and other areas of New York State, to paint a picture of the challenges they face, to educate and raise the profile on their needs and to call to action our community to better meet these needs.

This county continues to be a wonderful community in which to live and to raise a family. The quality of life and the natural beauty affords us a special place to call home. But as much as we love this place, we are facing a Chautauqua County challenge: as expressed in the 2013 United Way of Southern Chautauqua County's Community Status Report ([www.uwayscc.org](http://www.uwayscc.org)), the county is experiencing increasing poverty, unemployment and dependency. At the same time, our decreasing tax base results in the cost of public services being distributed among fewer people. There are many causes and facets to this issue but clearly the economic self sufficiency and well-being of our residents is fundamental.

To help explore some of the causative issues, this report seeks to look at only one element, the status of women and girls. We selected this population because they represent both great opportunity and potential and because for that portion that are caught in the cycle of poverty, the need for systemic intervention is great. More than 67,000 females reside in our county, comprise more than 50% of the population, and are integral to the future of our economic success.

The planned roll out of this report includes the engagement of policy and thought leaders to begin a dialogue about specific action and strategies which focus on root causes and best practice solutions. We will seek to stimulate meaningful policy change which can enable the public and the private sectors to work together more effectively and ultimately advance the well-being of women and girls and create a better future for all the residents of the county.

Immediately following this introduction you will find a summary of the findings and some recommendations. Some of the most striking data points include:

- ◆ The pay gap between working women and men in Chautauqua County is real. For persons working full time, year-round jobs, the median earnings for women in 2011 was \$31,626 compared to \$41,270 for their male counter parts.
- ◆ Across all jobs, women in Chautauqua County are earning 77% of what men earn. Yet women graduate from high school and earn college or graduate degrees at a higher percentage than do males.
- ◆ Women are a minority in terms of elected governmental leadership.
- ◆ 32.8% of our children and 21. 2% of all Chautauqua County women live in poverty.
- ◆ More than 50% of households in poverty are headed by women with children.
- ◆ One third of pregnant women do not receive prenatal care in the first trimester.
- ◆ The teen pregnancy rate at 43.5 per 1000 exceeds the national and upstate rate and is growing.

These are just a few of the troubling statistics underscoring the status of women and girls in the county.

All data in this report is attributable to trusted public sources. Every effort has been made to obtain the most recent data available and to ensure its accuracy, though it cannot be guaranteed. To help provide context, national, state and regional data is included in some sections. Additionally, neighboring Cattaraugus County data has also been used. Oswego County was used for comparison purposes where data was available. While not an exact match as their population is slightly lower, median income and poverty levels are comparable and the population density of 129 people per square mile is the same.

The impetus for *Women and Girls in Chautauqua County 2013* came from Jane Cleaver Becker who, as a trustee of the Dibert Foundation, was able to secure special projects funding from the foundation. In concert with the United Way of Southern Chautauqua County and its executive director, Tory Irgang, Ms. Cleaver Becker brought together a diverse group of women leaders and the project was born. Patricia A. Smith, president of Management Strategies was retained to gather statistical data and prepare this report.

To provide context for the reader, a brief summary of the 2011 publication *Women in America* by the Council on Women and Girls ([http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss\\_viewer/Women\\_in\\_America.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/Women_in_America.pdf)) follows. A number of coalitions in states and cities have used this seminal publication to take a closer look at how women and girls are faring closer to home.

*Women in America* used information from across several Federal agencies to provide baseline information on demographic and family changes, education, employment, health and crime and violence. It paints a picture of how far women and girls have come and also underscores areas where there is still much work to be done.

According to *Women in America*:

- ◆ Women have caught up with men in college attendance and younger women are now more likely than younger men to have a college or master's degree.
- ◆ The number of men and women in the labor force has nearly equalized in recent years.
- ◆ At all levels of education, women earned about 75% of what their male counterparts earned in 2009.
- ◆ Women are more likely than men to live in poverty. The economic inequities are even more acute for women of color.
- ◆ Women live longer than men but are more likely to face certain health problems, such as mobility impairments, arthritis, asthma, depression, and obesity.
- ◆ One out of seven women age 18-64 has no usual source of health care.
- ◆ Women are victims of certain crimes, such as intimate partner violence and stalking, at higher rates than men.

**For further information about the report or the Women and Girls Project contact:**

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# KEY FINDINGS

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

**Chautauqua County statistics appear to mirror national data as women in Chautauqua County:**

- Live longer and outnumber men in the older age categories,
- Earn less than their male counterparts,
- Head the majority of single parent households,
- Are more likely to live in poverty,
- Spend a larger percentage of their earnings on college debt,
- Own one third of local businesses,
- Have primary responsibility for child care arrangements,
- Face transportation challenges.

**Recommendations:**

- Women and girls should be encouraged to attain higher levels of education that will lead to employment that pays a family sustaining wage.
- Women should strive for financial literacy and independence, as statistically, whether married or not, many will spend parts of their adult life as singles.
- Successful women should consider mentoring and advising younger women.
- Efforts to ensure pay equity should be supported.
- Women should learn to negotiate effectively for salaries and benefits and major purchases.
- Women owned businesses should be supported.

## HEALTH AND WELL BEING

### Data would seem to indicate that in general Chautauqua County women:

- Have limited choices for medical care if they are on Medicaid,
- Do not seek early prenatal care at the recommended *Healthy People 2020* target level,
- Report experiencing poor mental health at a higher percentage than do men,
- Smoke at a higher rate than men,
- Drink less than men but are more susceptible to alcohol related organ damage,
- Are at the same obesity level as men,
- Mirror NYS women in terms of mortality with heart disease and cancer, the two primary causes of death,
- Gamble and abuse drugs for reasons different than their male counterparts.

### Recommendations:

- Support programs that encourage early pre-natal care.
- Expand the range and availability of mental health treatment programs specifically geared toward women.
- Research has shown that women who use illicit drugs while pregnant may suffer adverse consequences. Family-based treatment and other programs are needed to help pregnant women and mothers get the help they need.
- Women face different obstacles when struggling with substance abuse, so additional programs are needed to address these female-specific challenges.
- Support physician recruitment efforts to increase the number of practitioners in the county.



## EDUCATION

### In terms of educational attainment, women in Chautauqua County:

- Graduate from high school and earn college or graduate degrees at a higher percentage than do males,
- Are currently enrolled in higher education at local institutions at a much higher percentage than are male residents.

### Recommendations:

- Support efforts to encourage women and girls to pursue higher education.
- Encourage women to pursue careers in engineering, math, computer science, and physics.

## SAFETY AND VIOLENCE

### For women in Chautauqua County:

- Violence continues to be an issue. Since many women do not report these crimes, the magnitude of the issue may be understated.
- Family Court appears to have an increasingly full docket of petitions affecting children and families.
- Elder abuse may go unreported.

### Recommendations:

- Increase educational programs regarding violence prevention.
- Support projects which provide advocates for seniors.

## LEADERSHIP

### In Chautauqua County women:

- Are a majority of the population, but the minority in terms of elected governmental leadership,
- Vote at a higher rate than do males,
- Are the majority of classroom teachers but only a very small percentage hold the top school administrative position,
- Are as likely as men to head a non-profit organization.

### Recommendations:

- Develop programs which encourage women to run for elected office.
- Encourage women to use the power of the vote to elect officials who understand and support women's issues.

## GIRLS

### Teen girls in Chautauqua County:

- Have a higher rate of teen pregnancy (48.6 per 1000 15-19 year olds) than the national (34.3 per 1000 and on the decline) and upstate NY (37.4 per 1000),
- Like their peers in other parts of the country may smoke to avoid weight gain and identify themselves as glamorous, even though they understand that smoking is harmful,
- Consume alcohol at a slightly higher percentage (25.8%) than their male counterparts (23.9%) based on the YDS survey,
- Experience bullying and harassment but local data is not readily available.

### Recommendations:

- Support teen pregnancy prevention programs and efforts.
- Develop/support/enhance violence prevention programs (bullying/harassment/date violence.)
- Support mentoring programs and programs designed to strengthen families.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Until about 1950, the majority of the US population was male. Today there is a female majority in the country (50.8%), in New York State (51.5%) and in Chautauqua County (50.7%). This demographic shift resulted from reductions in immigration and increased life expectancy for women. It is estimated that nationally at age 85 and older, there are more than twice as many women as men.

Location	Men	Women
Jamestown	49%	51%
Chautauqua County	49.3%	50.7%
Cattaraugus County	49.47%	50.53%
Oswego County	49.8%	50.16%
NYS	48.5%	51.5%
United States	49.2%	50.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

In some ways the above statistic of a female majority can be slightly misleading as this majority is being driven by women outliving men. It is more accurate to say that women outnumber men in the older population, and that is what gives them this majority. As a country, we are aging and the median age continues to rise. People under 18 account for a smaller share of the population, and males continue to outnumber females at younger ages.

Locally, women over 18 years of age comprise 51.4% of the county population while females 65+ account for 57.3% of the population. However, as the following *American FactFinder* chart indicates, the percentage of males is higher throughout most of the life cycle with a few exceptions until ages 70 to 85+ thus mirroring the national trend.

<b>Chautauqua County</b>	<b>Estimate Total</b>	<b>Estimate Male</b>	<b>Estimate Female</b>
Total population	134,368	66,591	67,777
<b>AGE</b>			
Under 5 years	5.7%	6.3%	5.0%
5 to 9 years	6.5%	6.8%	6.2%
10 to 14 years	5.2%	5.5%	4.9%
15 to 19 years	7.6%	7.7%	7.6%
20 to 24 years	7.5%	8.2%	6.9%
25 to 29 years	5.6%	5.7%	5.4%
30 to 34 years	5.0%	5.1%	4.9%
35 to 39 years	5.0%	4.8%	5.3%
40 to 44 years	6.1%	6.2%	6.1%
45 to 49 years	6.9%	7.0%	6.9%
50 to 54 years	7.8%	8.0%	7.5%
55 to 59 years	6.7%	7.1%	6.3%
60 to 64 years	7.5%	7.0%	7.9%
65 to 69 years	4.6%	4.7%	4.4%
70 to 74 years	3.7%	3.2%	4.2%
75 to 79 years	3.1%	2.3%	3.8%
80 to 84 years	2.5%	2.0%	3.1%
85 years and over	2.9%	2.3%	3.4%
<b>SUMMARY INDICATORS</b>			
Median age (years)	41.2	39.9	42.8
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	98.3	(X)	(X)
Age dependency ratio	61.3	(X)	(X)
Old-age dependency ratio	27.1	(X)	(X)
Child dependency ratio	34.2	(X)	(X)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey

Chautauqua County continues to experience a population decline which began in the 1970s. Projections forecast a continual and increasing decline in the population. In addition to declining population, there have also been shifts in racial make-up. The Hispanic population increased by 39.65%, with most of this population living in the two urban areas: 45% residing in Dunkirk and 25% in Jamestown. However, despite this high increase, the county remains predominantly White and well below state and national Hispanic percentages as shown in the following chart.

### Population – 2010 Census & Estimates

Location	Population Total	Population White	Population Black	Population Hispanic
Chautauqua County	134,905	94.2%	2.7%	6.3%
New York	19,378,104	71.5%	17.5%	18%
Jamestown	31,146	88.4%	4.1%	8.8%
Dunkirk	12,563	77.5%	6.1%	26.4%
USA	308,747,507	78.1%	13.1%	16.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau State, County & USA Quick Facts • [quickfacts.census.gov/](http://quickfacts.census.gov/)

### Education Attainment

Location	Less than High School	HS Grad or Equivalent	Some College	Associate Degree	Bachelors Degree +
Chautauqua	13.1	35.3	19.6	12	20
Chaut - Female	11.6	33.2	23	11.8	20.5
New York	14.7	26.9	16.5	8.5	33.4
US	13.7	28	21.3	8	29.1



## ECONOMIC SECURITY

According to a report released by Wider Opportunities for Women, a group that works with low-income women and families to achieve economic security, the average minimum income needed for a family with two workers and two young children is \$67,920 — that's with both parents working, and earning just over \$16 an hour. And a single worker with no children needs to make about \$30,000 a year, which means working full-time and earning twice the minimum wage.

The income requirements in the index cited above are about three times more than the federal poverty level, which for 2012 was \$23,050 for a family of four and \$11,170 for an individual.

In this section, we will examine if women have equal access to resources, and will begin by looking at earnings. Work patterns seem to be key factors when looking at some of the disparities in earnings between men and women. Specifically, women often have fewer years of work experience, work fewer hours per year, are less likely to work a full-time schedule, and leave the labor force for longer periods of time than men. Other factors that account for earnings differences include industry, occupation, race, marital status, and job tenure. It is theorized that working women are penalized for their dual roles as wage earners and caregivers.

### WOMEN WHO WORK

Women have an increased presence in the workplace making up almost half (47%) of the U.S. labor force. The employment rate of married mothers with children has increased from 37% in 1968 to 65% in 2011, according to Pew Research Center Social and Demographic Trends project.

A record 40% of all households with children under the age of 18 include mothers who are either the sole or primary source of income for the family, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau. The share was just 11% in 1960.

Almost two thirds of these “breadwinner moms” are single moms while (37%) are married mothers who have a higher income than their husbands. There is also a considerable income gap between the two groups of women with married mothers who earn more than their husbands having a total median family income of \$80,000 in 2011 while families led by a single mother had a median income of only \$23,000, according to the Pew Research. Married mothers who out-earn their husbands tend to be slightly older, disproportionately white and college educated, while single mothers, by contrast, are younger, more likely to be black or Hispanic, and less likely to have a college degree.

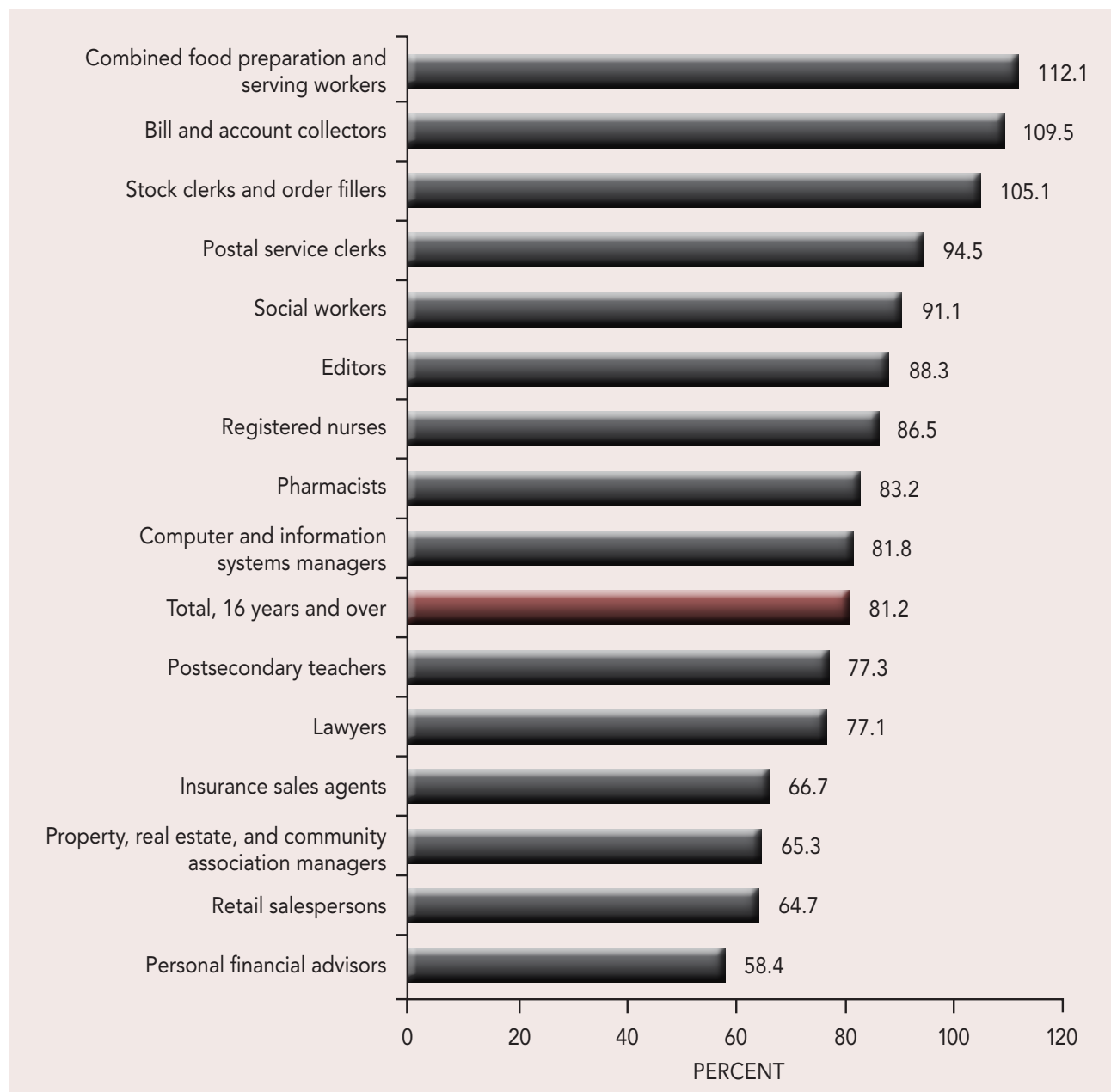
Most women still earn less than men, are far less likely to be in the highest-salaried executive positions and suffer what some call a prohibitive motherhood penalty.

As the U.S. continues the evolution from manufacturing to a knowledge-based economy, women are well positioned and education is the key. Young women have pulled ahead of their male counterparts in higher education. The percentage of females holding bachelor's degree or higher continues to rise (30% in 1999 and 35% in 2009) while for men the percentage has stayed constant at 27% since 1999.

## EARNING POWER

The ratio of women's to men's earnings, for all occupations, was 81.2% in 2010, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The ratio varies by occupation. In occupations such as personal financial advisors, retail salespersons, insurance sales agents and lawyers, for example, the earnings ratios are lower than the overall ratio of women's to men's earnings. In occupations such as stock clerks and order fillers, bill and account collectors and combined food preparation and serving workers, women earn more than men.

### Ratio of Women's to Men's Earnings • Selected Occupations, 2010



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics • [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov) • Current Population Survey / Chart Data

NOTE – National Partnership for Women & Families puts the national statistic at 77 cents, African American women at 62 cents and Latinas at 54 cents.



According to a fact sheet prepared by *National Partnership for Women & Families*, the 2012 median wage for full time working females in New York State was \$41,570, while for males the median wage was \$50,220. In short, New York women earn 83 cents for every dollar men earn. The report further states that women of color experience even greater disparities with African American women being paid 76 cents for every dollar paid to men, and Latinas being paid 63 cents on the dollar. More than one million households in New York are headed by women, with more than one quarter of them living below the poverty level.

A closer look at women's earnings in Chautauqua County shows that median earnings for women who work full-time year round are 79% (\$31,849) of what their male counterparts earn (\$40,214). This puts them below the 81.2% nationwide average.

### Median Earnings For Full Time, Year-Round Workers

2000	County	NYS	U.S.
Male	\$32,114	\$40,236	\$37,057
Female	\$22,214	\$31,099	\$27,194
2011	County	NYS	U.S.
Male	\$41,270	\$51,051	\$47,549
Female	\$31,626	\$42,037	\$27,160

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Usual Hours Worked Per Week For The Population Age 16 – 64 In Chautauqua County

Hours/week	Males	Females	All
35 or more	62.5%	46.0%	54.3%
15-34	10.7%	20.8%	15.7%
1-14	3.6%	5.5%	4.5%
None (Disabled)	7.6%	7.9%	7.8%
None (Not Disabled)	15.6%	19.7%	17.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2009-2011 ACS

According to a study by AAUW, *Graduating to a Pay Gap: The Earnings of Women and Men One Year After College Graduation*:

Women and men pay the same amount for their college degrees, but they often do not reap the same rewards. Among 2007-08 college graduates, women and men typically borrowed similar amounts to finance their educations, about \$20,000. Because women are paid less than men are paid after college, student loan repayments make up a larger part of women's earnings. In 2009, among full-time workers repaying their loans one year after college graduation, just over half of women (53 percent) compared with 39 percent of men were paying more than what AAUW estimates a typical woman or man could reasonably afford to pay toward student loan debt. These numbers have risen in recent years.

Outstanding student loans today total more than \$1 trillion, surpassing credit card debt. Student loan debt has increased nearly 300 percent over the last eight years, according to [a report](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/terry-oneill/student-loan-debt--its-wo_b_3287057.html) by the New York Federal Reserve. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/terry-oneill/student-loan-debt--its-wo\\_b\\_3287057.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/terry-oneill/student-loan-debt--its-wo_b_3287057.html)

## WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES

While there is considerable discussion about women business owners only 29% of U.S. companies are owned by women. While women have made some strides in this area, men still own 51% of U.S. companies, while another 17% are owned by male and female partners and 3% are publicly held.

According to data from the 2007 U.S. Economic Census, Chautauqua County has a total of 9844 businesses or companies. Extrapolating data, since they don't give a figure for female owned firms, it appears that 2807 of these businesses are owned by women. At 29% of women owned businesses in Chautauqua County, this puts the county on par with the rest of the country.

In Chautauqua County women are more likely to own businesses related to retail trade (29%) information (24%) or professional services (28%). For comparison purposes see chart below:

### Women Owned Businesses

USA	NY State	Chautauqua County	Oswego County
29%	30%	29%	33%

Source: U.S. Economic Census courtesy of SBDC

The NYS Empire State Development Corporation's Division of Minority and Women's Business Development has a mission to promote equality of economic opportunities for MWBEs (Minority and Women-owned Businesses) and to eliminate barriers to their participation in state contracts. They provide certification for MWBEs that are small businesses that are at least 51% owned by a woman or a minority. There are currently 505 certified woman or minority-owned businesses that provide services in the 5-county Western NY Region. An additional 6 woman-owned and 6 minority-owned businesses serve the Western NY Region, but are located in another region or out of state. There are 12 certified woman-owned businesses and 5 certified minority-owned businesses that are located in and serve Chautauqua County. (*MWBE Directory, Empire State Development Corporation, August 2013.*)

## SPENDING POWER

While gains in women's earning power have been slow, there is information that women are gaining the edge in terms of purchasing power. It is estimated that women in the U.S. spend more than \$3.3 trillion annually and hold sway over 51.3% of the nation's private wealth, as Maddy Dychtwald observes in *Influence*, one of many books on the subject of female economic empowerment. "We're on the brink of a massive power shift, a grinding of the gears of history into a new human condition," she writes. "It's a world where women can, if they choose, seize the reins of economic control."

While nationally women may be responsible for spending more than \$3.3 trillion annually, many women and their children are living in poverty and struggling to make ends meet.

## Percent Below Poverty In The Past 12 Months - Estimates

Subject	NYS	Chautauqua Co	Oswego Co
Population	16%	20.2%	21%
<b>SEX</b>			
Male	14.5%	19.1%	20.8%
Female	17.4%	21.2%	21.2%
<b>AGE</b>			
Under 18	22.6%	32.8%	29.9%
Related children under 18	22.3%	32.3%	29.1%
18 – 64	14.6%	19%	21.3%
65+	11.7%	8%	3.8%
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>			
Male	5.9%	9.1%	5.4%
Female	7.5%	9.3%	12.4%
Unemployed	30.1%	45.2%	28.6%
Male	27.4%	40.1%	24.5%
Female	33.2%	50.3%	37.5%
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>			
Population 25 years and over	12.7%	14%	15.2%
Less than high school graduate	29%	34.7%	34.6%
High school graduate	15%	14.4%	15.8%
Associate's degree	10.6%	13.4%	10.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	5.3%	2.8%	4.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey

As the previous chart indicates, more women are living in poverty than are men, locally, statewide and in our comparison county. Overall poverty for males and females is higher in Chautauqua and Oswego counties than it is statewide. What many find distressing is that individuals who are employed can still be living in poverty, but here again a higher percentage of working women are living in poverty than their male counterparts. More than half of females who are unemployed in Chautauqua County are living in poverty, while only four in ten unemployed males live in poverty.

According to the NYS Community Action Association (NYSCAA) 2013 poverty report, half of the households headed by women in Chautauqua County with children are living in poverty.

The likelihood of living in poverty decreases with education. While more than a third of county residents (males and females) with less than a high school diploma live in poverty, only 2.8% of college graduates do. Chautauqua County has a lower percentage of college graduates living in poverty than do either NYS or Oswego County. Clearly these statistics underscore the importance of education in lifting people out of poverty.

While there are some differences in the next two charts, as one is based on estimates and the other is from secondary sources, it is clear that the majority of women heads of household regardless of where they live are living in poverty.

### Population Living Below Poverty Level

Race & Ethnicity	# of Individuals	Margin of Error
<b>One Race</b>	21,456	±1,302
White	19,617	±1,272
Black or African American	756	±266
American Indian or Alaskan Native	358	±157
Asian	69	±81
<b>Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)</b>	3,664	±512

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 American Community Survey

### Women Led Household Living in Poverty

County	% of Households
Chautauqua	50.1%
Cattaraugus	42.6%
Oswego	45.7%
NYS	37.6%

Source: <http://www.nyscaaonline.org/PovReport/2012/Supplements/A1CompleteReport.pdf>

## CHILD SUPPORT

In New York State \$1,820,000,000 in child support was collected in 2012 and \$1,700,000,000 was distributed to families. The majority of this support was garnered via wage withholding which amounted to \$1,300,000,000.

Statewide there were 960,000 child support cases with 1,100,000 children served. The state also was successful in getting 75,356 paternity acknowledgments where the parents are not married.

According to information from the Chautauqua County Child Support Enforcement Unit, \$14,995,147.45 was collected locally in 2012. The amounts collected are either retained collections, which are used to reimburse the county for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) payments, or medical payments the custodial parent has received; or non-retained collections which are received and paid to custodial parents who do not receive public assistance. The number of children and cases was not available from the local Child Support Enforcement Unit.

The Child Support Enforcement Units have a number of options in terms of collecting child support ranging from wage garnishees to loss of driver's license.

## FAMILY ISSUES IMPACTING EMPLOYABILITY

For women who want or need to work or pursue an education a major concern is finding quality, affordable care for their children. Another challenge is transportation. In this section we will examine cost and available of local child care and review some of the transportation challenges.

According to census estimates, there are 56,033 households in the county with 35,503 of them considered family households. Of the family households, more than half of them (13,369) have children under 18. The majority of the family households with children under 18 are married couples (63%), while more than one in four (28%) are headed by a single female. Less than one in ten households with minor children is headed by a single male.

### Households and Families –1 Year Estimates, Chautauqua County

Subject	Estimate	Married couple family households	Male householder, no wife present	Female householder, no husband present	Nonfamily household
Total Households	56,033	25,606	2,351	7,546	20,530
Total Families	35,503	25,606	2,351	7,546	(X)
Average Family Size	2.81	2.90	2.21	2.70	
Households with children under 18	13,369	8,445	1,244	3,680	
Under 6 years only	22.8%	20.6%	39.7%	21.5%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey

Child care is one of the major expenses for working parents and in some instances can exceed a year's in-state tuition and related fees at four year public colleges. The *Parents and the High Cost of Child Care: 2012 Report* ranked New York among the 10 least-affordable states for full-time center-based infant care in 2011, as well as for full-time care for a 4-year-old in a center. [www.naccrra.org](http://www.naccrra.org)

Infant care is the most expensive because infants require more individualized attention. Costs range from \$140 - \$190 per week in Chautauqua County, according to the Chautauqua County Child Care Council. Rates vary by type of facility but generally family day care and group family day care homes are slightly less expensive than day care centers.

### Child Care Subsidies – Chautauqua County

Year	Total Expenditures
2012	\$4,579,587.61
2011	\$4,744,001.00
2010	\$5,177,785.50
2009	\$4,613,008.50
2008	\$5,489,027.27

Source: Chautauqua County Department of Social Services

Child Care subsidies are provided by the Department of Social Services and family eligibility is based on income, reasons for needing day care, and each child's age and individual needs. Families that are eligible for child care subsidies pay approximately 30% of the cost of care. However, those on TANF are guaranteed child care at no cost. In most cases, families receiving a child care subsidy can choose any legal child care provider. The chart below shows the total yearly expenditures for child care subsidies.

Extrapolating data from the household composition table on page 15, there are 3048 households with a potential need for child care services. How does need match up with supply? Statistics from the Chautauqua Child Care Council show the following licensed and registered child care slots available in Chautauqua County:

Child Care Capacity By Type	# Slots
Center based (licensed)	1308
Family Day Care (registered)	431
Group Family Day Care (licensed)	448
School Age (licensed)	1660
Preschool (includes Universal Pre-K)	1704

Source: COI – Chautauqua Child Care Council, 2013

It should be noted that there is no way to quantify informal child care arrangements where neighbors or family members provide care for children. From the numbers above, the additional legally exempt providers and the unquantifiable informal care, there may be sufficient child care availability. However,

location, access and care during non-traditional hours or lack of wrap around care can be problematic for working families and the quality of some of the informal arrangements cannot be ascertained.

For rural parents especially, finding wrap around programs for their children who attend Universal Pre-K is problematic as the majority of child care centers are located in the urban areas. Working parents also struggle with care when children are ill, finding before and after school care and care givers for school vacations and half days.

## TRANSPORTATION

Another barrier for many seeking employment is the availability of transportation, or lack thereof.

According to the Census Bureau's 2007-2011 ACS, the average travel time to work for Chautauqua County residents is 17.5 minutes.

Means of Transportation to Work	Chautauqua County	NYS
Drove alone	79.2	54.1
Carpooled	9.1	7.2
Public transportation	0.4	26.7
Walked	5.8	6.4
Other means	1.9	1.8
Worked at Home	3.5	3.9

Source: U.S. Census

The percentage of occupied housing units that have no vehicle available is 11% in Chautauqua County which means that just about one in ten households have no private transportation. Since female headed households with children are some of the poorest in the county, it is probably fair to speculate that they make up a large majority of households without a car.

There is limited public transportation through CARTS – Chautauqua Area Regional Transit System which has fixed and on demand routes within the county, and service in some of the larger cities. Rates vary by zone.

There are two taxi companies in the county; one in Jamestown and one in Dunkirk.

## **SUMMARY**

Chautauqua County Statistics appear to mirror national data as women in Chautauqua County:

- Are more likely to live longer and outnumber men in the older age categories,
- Earn less than their male counterparts,
- Head the majority of single parent households,
- Are more likely to live in poverty,
- Spend a larger percentage of their earnings on college debt,
- Own one third of local businesses,
- Are primarily responsible for child care arrangements,
- Face transportation challenges.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Education is a significant factor in determining whether or not women will live in poverty.
- All women should strive for financial literacy and independence, as statistically, whether married or not, they will spend parts of their adult life as singles.
- Successful women should consider mentoring and advising younger women.
- Efforts to ensure pay equity should be supported.
- Women should learn to negotiate effectively for salaries and benefits and major purchases.
- Women owned businesses should be supported.



# HEALTH & WELL-BEING

## OVERALL HEALTH

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps 2012*, rank Chautauqua County 54<sup>th</sup> in terms of overall health out of 62 NYS counties, while comparison counties Oswego and Cattaraugus rank 40<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup>. This puts the county at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, with only 10% of counties in the state having worse health. The Health Factor ranking is slightly better at 49<sup>th</sup>, while comparison counties Oswego and Cattaraugus rank 60<sup>th</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup>. The *County Health Rankings* were first released in 2010 and rank the overall health of the counties in all 50 states by using a standard formula to measure how healthy people are and how long they live.

<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

Another indicator of overall health is the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) the world's largest, on-going telephone health survey system, which tracks health conditions and risk behaviors monthly by state and has been doing so since 1986.

Interestingly enough BRFSS data indicate that the majority of residents in the County self-rate their health status as very good (34.1%) or good (33.0%). Many also consider their health to be excellent (18.2%) and fewer consider it to be fair (11.2%). While only 3.2% of county residents who participate in BRFSS believe they are in poor health, the high percentages of adults with diabetes (11.2%) or who are obese (27.8%), along with high rates of cardiovascular disease, cancer, and asthma indicate that a much greater percentage of the population are actually experiencing poor health in Chautauqua County.

<http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/brfss/expanded/2009/county/docs/chautauqua.pdf>

## ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Access is a broad term referring to the ability of individuals or groups to obtain needed medical services across their life span. Factors include availability - the range of medical services; accessibility - the location and ease of accessing the service; and affordability or the ability to pay for the services.

In terms of availability, The *NYS Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century* forced a major restructuring of health care services in Chautauqua County including a mandatory consolidation of two hospitals. Additionally, physician recruitment has become increasingly competitive as the demand for and supply of physicians has changed. The current ratio of physicians to patient per 1000 population for Chautauqua County is 8 and this compares to 20 per 1000 in the nation and 26 per 1000 in New York State. This shortage is acknowledged and Chautauqua County has 4 HPSA – Health Professional Shortage Area designations including 2 for primary care, one dental and one for mental health.

In terms of accessibility, area hospitals are located across the county, but the majority of physician practices are concentrated in Jamestown and Dunkirk. Rural residents must often travel considerable distances to receive care and county residents needing specialty care must often travel even further to Buffalo, NY or Erie, PA. While the county has a high proportion of Medicaid users, there are very few Medicaid providers which also hinder access. Limited public transportation and winter driving conditions also impact the degree of accessibility available.

Health insurance coverage is a critical factor in making health care accessible to women. It is estimated that one in five American women are uninsured.

The *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps* referenced earlier puts the percentage of uninsured county residents (men and women) at 12%, while for NYS the percentage is 14% and the National Benchmark is 11%. <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

There are a number of specific issues related to women's health that are outlined in the Key Findings noted below from the *Kaiser Women's Health Survey*:

- ◆ While most women in the US enjoy good health, one third report that they live with a chronic health problem and one in four report depression or anxiety. As women age, they are more likely to experience chronic health problems and report fair or poor health.
- ◆ Women of color and low-income women are more like to report health problems than higher income or white women.
- ◆ A sizable minority report experiencing high levels of stress attributable to economic, health, or work related concerns. One in four women has struggled with depression or anxiety in the past five years.
- ◆ Most adult women have some form of either private or public health insurance, but nearly one quarter are either currently uninsured or were uninsured for part of the prior year.
- ◆ The share of women who are uninsured for extended periods of time is growing.
- ◆ A sizable minority of women report problems with access to primary and specialty care and have concerns about the quality of care they receive. These problems are greatest for, but not limited to, uninsured women.
- ◆ Most women have two or more regular providers, typically a primary care provider and an Ob-Gyn.
- ◆ Most low-income and uninsured women have not had a recent health care visit.
- ◆ Access to specialty care is a problem for many women, but particularly for those who are uninsured or in fair or poor health. Access to specialty care is also worsening over time.
- ◆ Quality of care is a concern for one in four women.
- ◆ Despite growing attention to the important role in early intervention and healthy behaviors in health promotion and disease prevention, use of preventive counseling and screening services still fall far below recommended levels.
- ◆ Counseling and screening services that address women's sexual health are infrequent, especially considering the negative impact of sexually transmitted diseases, unintended pregnancy and violence on women's health and well-being.
- ◆ Health care costs pose a barrier to health care and prescription drugs for many women.
- ◆ Barriers to health care intersect with many other facets of women's lives.

- ◆ Women are the primary managers of their children's care, and for mothers who also work, this responsibility has consequences for their work and economic well-being.
- ◆ Women play a central role in providing care for chronically ill or disabled family members.

<http://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/8164.pdf>

According to the *Women's Access to Care: A State-Level Analysis of Key Health Policies*, access to health care services is an acute problem for women. Nearly one-quarter of women surveyed reported that they needed to see a doctor, but did not and nearly one in five is uninsured.

<http://kff.org/womens-health-policy/report/womens-access-to-care-a-state-level/>

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

### Prenatal Care

A woman's health prior to pregnancy and early prenatal care are critical to the health of the infant and can impact an infant's health and wellness for a lifetime. There is a direct correlation between the health of a newborn and the trimester when the mother begins receiving prenatal care. Unfortunately in Chautauqua County, the percentage of women receiving early prenatal care is declining. Additionally the percentage of women beginning prenatal care within the first trimester (67.6%) is lower than the *Healthy People 2020* target of 77.9% and the national baseline of 70.8% (2007).

As the chart below indicates, the percentage of women receiving early prenatal care has been declining locally and throughout upstate New York.

### Early Prenatal Care Chautauqua County Percent of Live Births

	Single Year	3-Year Average	Upstate NY
2000	73.3		78.5
2001	71.9	72.9	77.7
2002	73.5		77.8
2003	72.6	73.9	77.9
2004	75.5	73.9	77.8
2005	73.6	73.8	77.9
2006	72.5	72.0	76.3
2007	70.1	70.7	75.1
2008	69.5	69.1	74.5
2009	67.6		74.9

Source: <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/birth/pnearl6.htm>

In 2011 there were 24,571 women of child bearing age (15-54) residing in Chautauqua County. In that year there were 1412 live births. Two thirds of the women (934 or 66%) began receiving prenatal care in the first trimester. During the second trimester, 295 or 21% of birth mothers began prenatal care, while 86 or 6% did not seek care until the third trimester. Twelve women or .03% did not seek any prenatal care.

Of all age groups of women of child-bearing age in Chautauqua County, those 25-34 years old and greater were the most likely to receive early prenatal care (75.8%). For all other age groups, Chautauqua County's proportion of women who reported that they received early prenatal care was quite a bit lower than that of comparable counties and approximately equal to the state proportions.

There are some differences in terms of race and early prenatal care. White women (71.1%) receive early prenatal care at a slightly higher rate than black, other, and Hispanic women (approximately 65%). In 2011, one in four black women were the most likely to receive late or no prenatal care (20.0%).

The total number of pregnancies in 2011 was 1732 (rate of 70.5 total pregnancies per 1,000 female population aged 15-44) resulting in 1,412 live births, 78 spontaneous fetal deaths and 243 induced abortions.

## Abortions

While the debate on reproductive freedom continues, 243 girls and women in Chautauqua County terminated their pregnancies in 2010. They range in age from younger than 15, to 44 years of age. Women in the 20-24 age range had the highest number of induced abortions at that time accounting for more than a third (37%) of terminations.

### Induced Abortions by Woman's Age - 2010

County	Total	Mother's Age									
		< 15	15-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	N.S.
NYS	111,212	558	6,355	10,972	34,713	26,960	17,440	9,778	3,597	319	520
Rest of State	33,885	158	2,104	3,923	11,662	7,704	4,541	2,523	962	85	223
Cattaraugus	139	1	7	17	42	35	18	10	9	0	0
Chautauqua	243	3	26	29	89	54	25	10	7	0	0
Oswego	218	6	17	22	94	46	23	9	1	0	0

Source: NYS Department of Health

## Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD's)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that there are 19 million new STD infections each year with almost half of them among young people 15-24.

Infectious disease rates in the County remain low. Of all types of communicable diseases, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) cause the greatest disease burden. Chlamydia is the most common STD, and has been trending upward since 2005. The county rate per 100,000 women of all ages for Chlamydia was 431.4 compared to the state rate of 644.6. This lower rate may be the result of fewer women and girls being screened.

Gonorrhea was the second most common STD in Chautauqua County with a case rate per 100,000 women of all ages at 52.4, which is significantly below the NYS rate of 203.4 and NYS 2017 Objectives of 183.1 cases per 100,000 women.

The incidences of early and late Syphilis are both very low in the County and neighboring counties. There were no cases of primary or secondary syphilis for males or females in the County in 2010.

## MENTAL HEALTH

There is considered to be a continuum between mental health and mental illness; which is a medical condition that disrupts a person's thinking, feeling, mood, perception, ability to relate to others and daily functioning. Mental disorders can arise from multiple sources, and in many cases there is no single accepted or consistent cause currently established.

According to the NYS Department of Mental Health, the recognition and understanding of mental health conditions have changed over time but there are still variations in definition, assessment and classification, although standard guideline criteria are widely used. The stigma and discrimination against individuals with mental illnesses can add to the suffering and disability.

Access to mental health care is particularly important for women, who are twice as likely as men to suffer from certain mental health conditions. Nearly one in five women will have an episode of major depression in her lifetime.

According to the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH) "mental illnesses affect women and men differently — some disorders are more common in women, and some express themselves with different symptoms. Scientists are only now beginning to tease apart the contributions of various biological and psychosocial factors to mental health and mental illness in both women and men. In addition, researchers are currently studying the special problems of treatment for serious mental illness during pregnancy and the postpartum period.

The mental disorders affecting women include the following:

- ◆ Anxiety Disorders, including Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, panic, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, social phobia, and generalized anxiety disorders.
- ◆ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD, ADD)
- ◆ Bipolar Disorder
- ◆ Borderline Personality Disorder
- ◆ Depression
- ◆ Postpartum depression
- ◆ Eating Disorders
- ◆ Schizophrenia

According to the *Expanded BRFSS (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System) Report: July 2008 – June 2009*, women in Chautauqua County report 14 or more days within the month of the survey being conducted with having poor mental health at a higher percentage than do men. Based on a sample size of 628, and a 95% confidence interval, slightly more than 10.1% of the County population, or 10,400 adults, reported poor mental health, with 6200 (11.8%) women and 4,200 (8.3%) men.

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

### Smoking

Medical studies have proven that smoking tobacco is among the leading causes of many diseases such as lung cancer, heart attacks, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The inherent health hazards of smoking have given rise to high taxes on smoking products and anti-smoking campaigns nationwide. Yet according to the American Lung Association, 21.1 million (18.3%) women compared to 24.8 million (23.1%) men smoked in the United States in 2008. Although fewer women smoke than men, the percentage difference between the two has continued to decrease. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), cigarette smoking kills an estimated 173,940 women annually in the United States.

The CDC further states that women have been extensively targeted in tobacco marketing dominated by themes of an association between social desirability, independence, weight control and smoking messages conveyed through advertisements featuring slim, attractive, and athletic models.

<http://www.lung.org/stop-smoking/about-smoking/facts-figures/women-and-tobacco-use.html>

According to the *Expanded BRFSS Report – July 2008 – June 2009*, it is estimated that one in four (25.3%) of Chautauqua County residents smoke, compared with 16.8% of New York State residents. In 2006 the BRFSS report had the percentage of county smokers at nearly 23%, so smoking is on the rise. The percentage of female smokers in the county (27.9%) is higher than the percentage of male smokers (22.6%) and both male and female NY State smokers (19.3%) and (14.6%) respectively, as well as the national percentages.

<http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/brfss/expanded/2009/county/docs/chautauqua.pdf>

### Alcohol Use

While men are more likely to drink alcohol and more likely to drink greater amounts, women have a higher risk of developing problems from alcohol consumption. Alcohol in a woman's bloodstream typically reaches a higher level than a man's even if both are drinking the same amount, as women's bodies generally have less water than men's. Because alcohol mixes with body water, a given amount of alcohol is less diluted in a woman's body than in a man's. Women become more impaired by alcohol's effects and are more susceptible to alcohol-related organ damage. So women develop damage at lower levels of consumption over a shorter period of time, according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. (NIH)

It is estimated that one-third of American women report regular alcohol consumption and 2.3%, or 2.5 million women, meet the criteria for alcohol dependence.

The *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, which are issued jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services define moderate drinking as no more than one drink a day for women and no more than two drinks a day for men. [www.nutrition.gov](http://www.nutrition.gov). The *Dietary Guidelines* point out that drinking more than one drink per day for women can increase the risk for motor vehicle crashes, other injuries, high blood pressure, stroke, violence, suicide, and certain types of cancer.

## Heavy Drinking Within the Past Month Among Adults<sup>1</sup>

Chautauqua County				New York State		
	n <sup>2</sup>	Est. # of adults <sup>3</sup>	Percent	n <sup>2</sup>	Est. # of adults <sup>3</sup>	Percent
Total	632	5,400	5.2%	37,553	718,700	4.9%
Male	259	3,500	7.0%	14,330	333,300	4.8%
Female	373	1,800	3.5%	23,223	385,400	5.0%

Source: <http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/brfss/expanded/2009/county/docs/chautauqua.pdf>

<sup>1</sup> Defined as adult men averaging more than 2 alcoholic drinks per day and adult women averaging more than 1 alcoholic drink per day within past month

<sup>2</sup> Sample size from survey

<sup>3</sup> Estimated number of adult heavy drinkers within the past month (rounded to the nearest hundred)

As the above chart indicates, the percentage of heavy drinkers in Chautauqua County is above the NYS percentage. This is based on the higher percentage of county males who are heavy drinkers as the percentage for females at 3.5% is below the state average of 5%.

## Gambling

Problem gambling in New York State is estimated to affect 5% of all adults, a figure totaling over 750,000. Among New Yorkers ages 12 to 17, problem gambling is impacting 160,000, or one out of every ten youth. Approximately 25% of the youth problem gamblers also report substance abuse problems. An additional 160,000 are at risk of developing problem gambling and may need treatment. Approximately 25% of this 160,000 have both a substance abuse and gambling problem.

Women are drawn to gambling for a variety of reasons ranging from escape to a craving for action. Women who have suffered abusive behavior and or addiction are drawn to gambling, while for others it can be an escape from grief or stress. According to casino statistics, 45% of gamblers are male and 55% are female. It is estimated that 4% to 5% are problem gamblers with 1/3 of these being women. There are no local statistics on problem gambling, but the proximity to area casinos provides easy access for those interested in this past time. Statistics from a Sienna political poll of the County showed that 73% of males and 79% of women surveyed did not know anyone who has or has had a gambling problem, while 26% of males and 21% of females did know someone with a gambling problem.

## Substance Abuse

Substance use is a growing problem among females. The 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) reported that approximately 6.6% of women aged 12 and older reported past month use of an illicit drug. (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)*, September 2010).

NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) estimates that 12% of residents aged 12 and older experience a substance use disorder annually. Statewide, over 1.9 million New Yorkers (1.77 million adults and 156,000 youth ages 12-17) have a substance abuse problem. These figures do not fully depict the widespread impact of addiction in New York because of the millions of other individuals whose



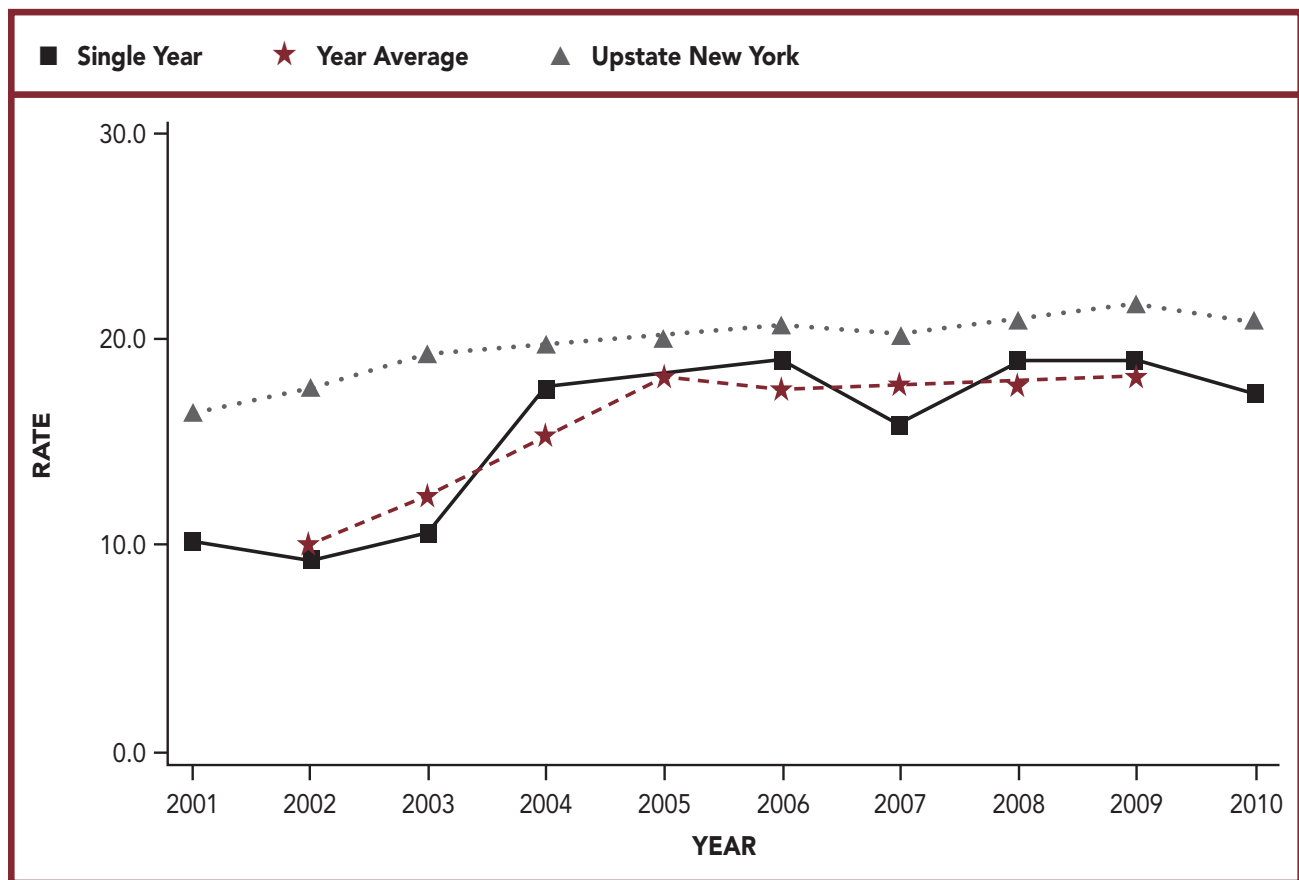
lives are also affected: the children, spouses, and extended families. The cost to society is compounded by the consequences of addiction, which impact public safety, health, welfare, and education throughout the State.

Substance abuse can simply be defined as a pattern of harmful use of any substance for mood-altering purposes. Medline's medical encyclopedia defines drug abuse as "the use of illicit drugs or the abuse of prescription or over-the-counter drugs for purposes other than those for which they are indicated or in a manner or in quantities other than directed."

Anecdotally, we are told that a high percentage of local individuals are not employable because they cannot pass the drug test.

While the Chautauqua County drug related hospitalization rate is below the Upstate New York Rate, with the exception of 2007 when there was a slight dip, the rate is on the increase.

### Chautauqua County Drug-related Hospitalization Rate Per 10,000



Source: Vital Statistics Data as of September, 2012  
New York State Department of Health - Bureau of Biometrics and Health Statistic



## NUTRITION

### Eating Disorders

Eating disorders are conditions defined by abnormal eating habits ranging from insufficient to excessive food intake to the detriment of an individual's physical and mental health. Bulimia nervosa and anorexia nervosa are most common.

### Obesity

According to the *National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2009–2010* more than one-third of American adults (35.7%) and almost 17% of youth were obese in 2009–2010. Key findings also indicated:

- ◆ There was no change in the prevalence of obesity among adults or children from 2007–2008 to 2009–2010.
- ◆ Obesity prevalence did not differ between men and women.
- ◆ Adults aged 60 and over were more likely to be obese than younger adults.

Overweight and obesity are both labels for ranges of weight that are greater than what is generally considered to be healthy for a given height. Obesity is defined as having a body mass index of 30.0 or greater. Overweight is defined as having a body mass index (BMI) more than 24.9 but less than 30.0. BMI is calculated as weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in meters.

*The Expanded BRFSS – Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey June 2008 – 2009* estimates that 28,000 (27.3) Chautauqua County residents are obese and another 35,600 (34.7%) are overweight putting almost 2/3rds of the population (62%) as either overweight or obese. The county obesity percentage is higher than NY State estimates of 23.2% but lower than the 36.4% overweight at the state level.

In terms of gender, county obesity levels are almost identical for males (27%) and females (27.6%) while a greater percentage of men are estimated to be overweight 40.5% than women 29.0%. NYS obesity levels are lower with 21.4% of males in this category and 25% of females, while overweight percentages are higher at 43.7% males and 29.3% females.

### Hunger

The high rates of poverty for women may mean that some women and their children may suffer from hunger or malnutrition. Statistics for 2012 from the Susan's Soup Kitchen (which are not divided by gender) show a total of 4190 meals served to adults, 877 to children, 303 to infants and 737 to elderly guests.

## MORTALITY

Heart Disease and cancer are the two primary causes of death for women throughout New York State and in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Oswego counties. The county death rate from heart disease at 149 per 100,000 women is below NYS (164), Cattaraugus (275) and Oswego (157). The cancer death rate for the county (144) is slightly above NYS (142) but below Cattaraugus (172) and Oswego (186).

Heart disease and cancer are also the leading causes of death for males throughout the state and in Chautauqua County. More males die of unintentional injury than do females.

### Leading Causes of Death Among Females, New York State, 2001 Versus 2010

Location & No. of Deaths	#1 Cause of Death & No. of Deaths Age-related Death Rate	#2 Cause of Death & No. of Deaths Age-related Death Rate	#3 Cause of Death & No. of Deaths Age-related Death Rate	#4 Cause of Death & No. of Deaths Age-related Death Rate	#5 Cause of Death & No. of Deaths Age-related Death Rate
Chautauqua	Cancer	Stroke	Heart Disease	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	Kidney Disease & Disease of Urinary Tract
Total: 727	145 per 100,000	56 per 100,000	49 per 100,000	49 per 100,000	19 per 100,000
Oswego	Cancer	Heart Disease	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	Stroke	Diabetes
Total: 507	186 per 100,000	157 per 100,000	61 per 100,000	44 per 100,000	15*
New York	Heart Disease	Cancer	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	Stroke	Pneumonia & Influenza
Total: 75,335	164 per 100,000	142 per 100,000	29 per 100,000	27 per 100,000	17 per 100,000

*\*Rates based on fewer than 20 events in the numerator are unstable.*

*Source: Vital Statistics Data as of September 2012*

*New York State Department of Health – Bureau of Biometrics and Health Statistics*

A number of factors and decisions influence a person's health and well being. Daily activities and decisions have a direct impact on each individual's level of health. Personal behaviors, i.e. not smoking, eating a healthy diet, and exercising regularly are important disease prevention mechanisms available to all.

## SUMMARY

Data would seem to indicate that in general Chautauqua County women:

- Have limited choices for medical care if they are on Medicaid
- Do not seek early prenatal care at the recommended Healthy People 2020 target level
- Report experiencing poor mental health at a higher percentage than do men
- Smoke at a higher rate than men
- Drink less than men but are more susceptible to alcohol related organ damage
- Are at the same obesity level as men
- Mirror NYS women in terms of mortality with heart disease and cancer the two primary causes of death
- Gamble and abuse drugs for reasons different than their male counterparts

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support programs that encourage early pre-natal care.
- Expand the range and availability of mental health treatment programs specifically geared toward women.
- Research has shown that women who use illicit drugs while pregnant may suffer adverse consequences. Family-based treatment and other programs are needed to help pregnant women and mothers get the help they need.
- Women face different obstacles when struggling with substance abuse, so additional programs are needed to address these female-specific challenges.
- Support physician recruitment efforts to increase the number of practitioners in the county.



## EDUCATION

Over the last 40 years women's gains in educational attainment have significantly outpaced those of men. Younger women today are more likely to graduate from college and pursue graduate degrees. Nationally, a higher percentage of women than men have at least a high school education. While county statistics for percentage of high school graduates are above national and state levels, the percentage of both male and female college graduates fall far below the state and national levels. As indicated earlier in this report, a college education is one key to lifting individuals out of poverty. There are numerous reports which indicate that the average value of a college education over a high school education over a worker's lifetime is approximately \$1 million dollars.

### Educational Attainment 2011 – American Community Survey – 1 Year Estimates

Location	High School Grad. or More All Races Males	High School Grad. or More All Races Females	College Grad. or More All Races Males	College Grad. or More All Races Females
United States	85.2%	86.5%	28.7%	28.3%
NYS	84.8%	85.3%	32.6%	33.2%
Chautauqua County	85.8%	90.1%	20.4%	21.4%
Oswego County	87.6%	85.4%	13.9%	16.3%

Source: American Fact Finder2

Despite gains in graduation rates for women there are still differences in the relative performance of male and female students at young ages with girls scoring higher than boys on reading assessments and lower on math assessments. These differences are reflected in the fields that women pursue in college.

Women and girls' progress in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) has been slower especially in engineering, computer science and physics.

There are a number of social and environmental factors which contribute to this phenomenon. According to the AAUW report *Why So Few?*, it is important to examine stereotypes and biases and pay careful attention to classroom and workplace environments. The report recommends action in three areas:

- ◆ Cultivating girls' achievements, interest, and persistence in science and engineering
- ◆ Creating college environments that support women in science and engineering
- ◆ Counteracting bias

A copy of the complete report is available at [www.aauw.org/learn/research/whysofew.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/learn/research/whysofew.cfm)

Locally a Chautauqua STEM Education Coalition has been formed as an initiative of the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce, the Manufacturer's Association of the Southern Tier, and the "Dream It Do It WNY" campaign. Dream It Do It was formed as part of Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Council initiative. It involves the promotion of internship and apprenticeship opportunities to promote careers in advanced manufacturing to K-12 students across the region.

Statistics from Jamestown Community College regarding STEM enrollments by gender is as follows:

Degree/Certificate	Male Number	Male Percentage	Female Number	Female Percentage
Biotechnology AS	14	41.2%	20	58.8%
CAD/CNC CERT	1	100%	0	0%
Computer Information System AAS	24	77.4%	7	22.6%
Computer Science AS	59	92.2%	5	7.8%
Electricity/Electronics CERT	0	0	1	100%
Engineering Science AS	36	87.8%	5	12.2%
Environmental Science	23	62.2%	14	37.8%
Industrial Equipment Technology CERT	2	100	0	0
Information Technology AAS	36	87.8%	5	12.2%
Information CERT	1	100%	0	0
Machine Tool Technology CERT	4	100%	0	0
Mechanical Technology AAS	32	91.4%	3	8.6%
Professional Piloting	22	91.7%	2	8.3%
Web Design CERT	4	66.7%	2	33.3%
Welding AAS	32	97%	1	3.3%
Welding Certificate	11	91.7%	1	8.3%

## ACCESS TO POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

At Jamestown Community College for the 2012-2013 school year 58% of the student body is female (2094) and 42% male(1488).

For Jamestown Business College 2012-13 the enrollment is 73.75% female and 26.25% male.

At SUNY Fredonia, for the Fall Semester 2012 enrollment is 44.2% male and 55.8% female at the undergraduate level and 21.9% male and 78.1% female at the graduate level.

## **SUMMARY**

In terms of educational attainment, women in Chautauqua County:

- Graduate from high school and earn college or graduate degrees at a higher percentage than do males
- Are currently enrolled in higher education at local institutions at a much higher percentage than are male residents

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Support efforts to encourage women and girls to pursue higher education.
- Recognize the social and environmental factors which contribute to women not pursuing careers in engineering, computer science and physics at the same rate as men.





## SAFETY AND VIOLENCE

Violence against women is present in every country, cutting across the boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age. It takes many forms and ranges from sexual assault to domestic violence, to harassment in the workplace to bullying in school and stalking.

### SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault or abuse is any type of sexual activity that a person does not agree to, including:

- ◆ Rape or attempted rape
- ◆ Touching your body or making you touch someone else's
- ◆ Incest or sexual contact with a child
- ◆ Someone watching or photographing you in sexual situations
- ◆ Someone exposing his or her body to you

National statistics indicate that 1 in 6 women reported experiencing rape or attempted rape at some time in their lives.

While sexual assault can be committed by a stranger, most often it is committed by someone the person knows, including a date or an intimate partner like a husband, ex-husband, or boyfriend.

Statistics indicate that of all violent crimes, sexual assault is the least likely to be reported to the police. Figures from the *Index Crimes Reported to Police in Chautauqua County from 2008 -2012* reveal that on average 33 women per year report a rape in Chautauqua County, 31 per year in Oswego and 21 per year in Cattaraugus County.

### Comparative Index Crimes – Forcible Rape Reported to Police from 2008 - 2012

Year	Chautauqua County	Oswego County	Cattaraugus County
2008	39	35	24
2009	35	31	25
2010	42	28	22
2011	34	28	16
2012	27	33	18

<http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/ojsa/indexcrimes/Chautauqua.pdf>

<http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/ojsa/indexcrimes/Cattaraugus.pdf>

<http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/crimnet/ojsa/indexcrimes/Oswego.pdf>

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence is a pattern of abusive behavior by one partner against another in a relationship such as marriage, cohabitation, dating or within a family. It can take many forms including physical aggression or assault, threats, sexual or emotional abuse, intimidation, stalking, neglect or economic deprivation.

### Jamestown - Domestic Violence Statistic By Race 2012

Race	Number
American Indian/Alaska Native	6
Black or African American	93
White	1027
Unknown	3

Source: Project Crossroads

According to statistics from Project Crossroads, there were **3023 calls** for service reported as domestic violence disputes in Chautauqua County in 2012. Of that number more than a third **1235** domestic incident reports took place in Jamestown. Statistics indicate that this issue cuts across all races and age groups.

The majority of the Jamestown calls were from females (935), but there were also calls from 290 males.

### Jamestown - Domestic Violence Statistics By Age

Age	Number
13 – 17	170
18 – 24	244
25 – 59	780
60+	13

Source: Project Crossroads

Eighteen of the calls were from individuals with limited English proficiency and two were from individuals with disabilities.

Additional statistics from Project Crossroads show that there were 448 calls for assistance to 911 and other calls related to domestic violence/dating violence in this time period and 5 calls for stalking.

### 911 calls – 2012 – Domestic Violence

	Calls for Assistance	Incident	Arrests	Dual Arrests	Protection/Temporary Restraining Orders Served	Enforcement Of Warrants
Domestic Violence	448	371	667	18	537	279
Stalking	5	5			5	

Source: Project Crossroads

Additionally there were 144 arrests for violation of order of protection and 325 domestic violence/dating violence protection orders issued by law enforcement.

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services reports the following domestic violence statistics for Chautauqua County for 2010 – 2012.

Offense	Total 2012	Total 2011	Total 2010
Agg Assault	62	60	66
Simple Assault	820	997	1034
Sex Offense	73	75	68
Violate Protection Order	25	61	48
Total	980	1193	1214

Source: NYS DCJ

## ELDER ABUSE/FRAUD

While statistics on elder abuse in Chautauqua County were not readily available, extrapolating from state data we might conclude that as many as 4300 Chautauqua County residents 60+ may have experienced an elder abuse event. Based on the higher percentage of women than men in the older age group, one might assume the majority of victims were females. According to *Under the Radar: New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study SELF-REPORTED PREVALENCE AND DOCUMENTED CASE SURVEYS FINAL REPORT, May 2011*, there were several major findings including:

- ◆ The findings of the study point to a dramatic gap between the rate of elder abuse events reported by older New Yorkers and the number of cases referred to and served in the formal elder abuse service system.
- ◆ Overall the study found an elder abuse incidence rate in New York State that was nearly 24 times greater than the number of cases referred to social service, law enforcement or legal authorities who have the capacity as well as the responsibility to assist older adult victims.

### Rates of Elder Abuse in New York State: Comparison of Self-Reported One-Year Incidence and Documented Case Data

	Documented Rate Per 1000	Self-reported Rate Per 1000	Ratio of Self-Reported to Documented
New York State – all forms of abuse	3.24	76	23.5
Financial	.96	42.1	43.9
Physical and Sexual	1.13*	22.4*	19.8
Neglect	.32	18.3	57.2
Emotional	1.37	16.4	12.0

\*The documented Case rate includes physical abuse cases only. Physical and sexual abuse data were combined in the Self-Reported Study. The sexual abuse rate for the Documented Case Study was 0.03 per 1000.

## SELF-REPORTED PREVALENCE STUDY

Major findings of the Self-Reported Study include:

- ◆ A total one-year incidence rate of 76 per 1,000 older residents of New York State for any form of elder abuse was found.
- ◆ The cumulative prevalence of any form of **non-financial elder mistreatment** was 46.2 per thousand subjects studied in the year preceding the survey.
- ◆ The highest rate of mistreatment occurred for **major financial exploitation** (theft of money or property, using items without permission, impersonation to get access, forcing or misleading to get items such as money, bank cards, accounts, power of attorney) with a rate of 41 per 1,000 surveyed.
- ◆ This rate reflects respondent reports of financial abuse that occurred in the year preceding the survey.
- ◆ The study also found that 141 out of 1,000 older New Yorkers have experienced an elder abuse event since turning age 60.

This report was prepared by: Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc., Weill Cornell Medical Center of Cornell University and the New York City Department for the Aging

## SUMMARY

For women in Chautauqua County:

- Violence continues to be an issue. Since many women do not report these crimes, the magnitude of the issue may be understated,
- Family Court appears to have an increasingly full docket of petitions affecting children and families,
- Elder abuse may go unreported.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase educational programs regarding violence prevention.
- Support projects which provide advocates for seniors.

# LEADERSHIP

In Sheryl Sandberg's recently published *Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead*, she examines why men still hold the vast majority of leadership positions in government and industry even though women became 50% of the college graduates in the United States thirty years ago. She examines why women's progress in achieving leadership roles has stalled.

One of her tenets is that women need to be at the table. In an effort to determine how well women are represented at the governmental leadership table, it was important to see how many of these key leadership positions women in Chautauqua County hold.

## ELECTED/APPOINTED OFFICIALS

At the state level, the State Senate representative is female and the Assembly representative is male.

The chief elected official of the county is male, as are the two candidates vying to replace him. The highest elected female is the county clerk, who announced her retirement in 2013. Additionally, the State Supreme Court Judge and Family Court Judge are female while the County Court Judge and the County Surrogate Court Judge are male.

The 25 member Chautauqua County Legislature has only three elected female members. While women represent more than half of the county population they are only 12% of the elected leadership in county government.

In terms of county departments, the majority are headed by males including:

Board of Elections	Legislature
County Attorney	Planning and Economic Development
County Home	Public Facilities
District Attorney	Real Property Tax
Emergency Services	Sheriff
Human Resources	South and Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer District
Industrial Development Agency	Veteran Services
Information Services	

Women lead the following departments in county government:

- Health and Human Services
- Mental Hygiene
- Office for the Aging
- Probation
- Finance
- Commissioner of Jurors

In the two major cities, both chief elected officials (mayors) are male. The 9 member Jamestown City Council has three females, while the five-member Dunkirk Common Council has two councilwomen.

The vast majority of town supervisors are male, while females hold the overwhelming number of town clerk positions. The majority of town council members are also male. In the villages, only two of the fifteen mayors are female.

Township	Town Supervisor	Town Clerk	Town Council
Arkwright	M	F	4 Males
Busti	M	F	4 Males
Carroll	M	F	3 M/1 W
Charlotte	M	F	4 Males
Chautauqua	M	F	4 Males
Cherry Creek	M	F	4 Males
Clymer	M	F	4 Males
Dunkirk Township	M	F	4 Males
Ellery	M	F	4 Males
Ellicott	M	M	3 M/1 F
Ellington	F	F	2 M/2 F
French Creek	M	F	4 Males
Gerry	M	F	3 M/1 F
Hanover	M	F	4 Males
Harmony	M	F	2M/1F/1Vacant
Mina	F	F	4 Males
North Harmony	F	F	4 Males
Poland	F	F	3 M/1 F
Pomfret	M	F	2 M/2 F
Portland	M	F	4 Males
Ripley	M	F	3 M/1 F
Sheridan	M	F	2 M/2 F
Sherman	M	F	3 M/1 F
Villanova	F	F	2 M/2 F
Westfield Township	F	M	4 Males

Villages	Mayor	Clerk/Adm.	Trustees
Bemus Point	M	F	2 M/2 F
Brocton	M	F	4 M
Cassadaga	F	F	3 M/1 F
Celeron	M	F	3 M/1 W
Cherry Creek	M	F	1 M/3 F
Falconer	M	F	3 M/1 F
Forestville	F	M	2M/1F/1 vacant
Fredonia	M	M	2 M/3 F
Lakewood	M	M	3 M/1 W
Mayville	M	M	3 M/1 W
Panama	M	F	1 M/2 W
Sherman	M	F	2 M/2 F
Silver Creek	M	F	4 Males
Sinclairville	M	F	2 M/2 F
Westfield	M	M	4 Males

Source: *Municipal Directory 2013*

## VOTER PARTICIPATION

According to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, there are clear gender differences in voter turnout. In recent elections, voter turnout rates for women have equaled or exceeded voter turnout rates for men. Women, who constitute more than half the population, have cast between four and seven million more votes than men in recent elections. In every presidential election since 1980, the proportion of female adults who voted has exceeded the proportion of male adults who voted.

Election 2012 was seen by many as a historic moment for women. Their votes re-elected Barack Obama for a second term, and sent more women than ever before to Congress. Women voted in record numbers, and the gender gap between the two candidates was striking with unmarried women backing the president by a 38% point margin, according to statisticians.

In Chautauqua County, women outnumber men in terms of being registered to vote across all age categories and comprise 53% of registered voters.

Of the 53,538 county residents who voted in the 2012 election, 28,555 or 53% were women and 24,982 or 47% were men. These figures are on par with the national statistics for the 2012 election.

### Registered Voters Chautauqua County 2013

	0-18	19-21	22-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total
Women	274	1525	1863	5361	5628	7653	7984	5548	5727	41,563
Men	271	1455	1642	5105	5102	6965	7739	5119	3933	37,331
Total	545	2980	3505	10,466	10,730	14,618	15,723	10,667	9660	78,894

Source: *Chautauqua County Board of Elections*

## **NONPROFIT SECTOR**

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics about 64.5 million Americans volunteered at least once for an organization between September 2011 and September 2012, with more women than men volunteering. Nationally 29.5% of women and 23.2% of men volunteer annually. Local statistics are not readily available.

Of the estimated 130 Chautauqua County not-for-profit organizations in the county, approximately half have a woman in the primary leadership (executive director/CEO) position, so this is one area where women do appear to have equal access and are at the table.

The majority of local foundations are headed by males. In the 35 year history of Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, there has only been one female chair of the board of CRCE.

## **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

Only three of the eighteen school districts in Chautauqua County had a female Superintendent, as of the 2012 report cards. While classrooms are overwhelmingly led by females, and many have moved into school administration at the principal level, the top and highest paying positions as superintendents remain predominantly male. Figures for the 2011-2012 school year show superintendents' salaries ranged from a low of \$143,905 to a high of \$219,687.

## **SUMMARY**

In Chautauqua County women:

- Are a majority of the population, but the minority in terms of elected governmental leadership,
- Vote at a higher rate than do males,
- Are the majority of classroom teachers, but only a very small percentage hold the top school administrative position,
- Are as likely as men to head a non-profit organization.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Develop programs which encourage women to run for elected office.
- Encourage women to use the power of the vote to elect officials who understand and support women's issues.



## GIRLS

There are a wide range of issues facing girls and teens ranging from early pregnancy, body image, peer pressure, violence, drug and alcohol use, bullying, cyber-addictions and self harm.

According to CHILD TRENDS, *Adolescent Health Highlights* Publication # 2013-04, dating plays a part in adolescents' healthy development, and the majority of 10th and 12th graders have dated, although research suggests that the terms "hanging out" or "going with someone" have replaced the term "dating" for many adolescents. The article also points out that:

- ◆ The proportion of teens who have ever had sexual intercourse has declined since the early 1990s.
- ◆ Adolescents who have sexual intercourse early are less likely to use contraception, putting them at greater risk of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).
- ◆ Some adolescents engage in high-risk sexual behaviors, such as having multiple sexual partners or having sexual intercourse under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- ◆ New media play important roles in adolescents' dating and sexual relationships; more than one third of adolescents have sent or posted sexually suggestive messages via text, instant message (IM), or email.

The publication further states that, dating varies across racial/ethnic groups. For example, research finds that white adolescents are generally more likely to be in dating relationships than are black and Hispanic adolescents. Additionally, among adolescent females who date, white adolescents tend to be in longer-term, more serious relationships than black adolescents. The nature of dating relationships changes as adolescents get older – moving from mixed sex group outings, to pairing off within a group, to going out one-on-one as a couple.

Positive experiences in these relationships, such as receiving support and affection, contribute to healthy self-esteem and promote communication and conflict management skills. However, other dating experiences, including having multiple very short-term relationships and being in relationships with high levels of aggression, can be problematic for adolescents. For example, poor quality romantic relationships are linked to alcohol and drug use, poor academic performance, and poor emotional health.

Unfortunately, sometimes violence occurs in adolescent dating relationships. Each year, roughly 10 percent of high school students, both males and females, report experiencing dating violence (i.e., having been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend). These adolescents report lower self-esteem, lower emotional well-being, and more suicidal thoughts and attempts, and show more disordered eating patterns than do adolescents who were not victims of dating violence. Black and Hispanic adolescents are more likely than white adolescents to experience violence in a dating relationship.

## TEEN PREGNANCY

One of the unintended consequences of dating and engaging in sexual activity is teen pregnancy. However, the percentage of teens engaging in sexual intercourse and the teen birth rate are both declining nationally, but teen pregnancy is on the increase in Chautauqua County.

The national birth rate in 2009 among teens 15-19 fell 9% from 37.9% to 34.3% live births per 1000 females, which is a record low. This trend continued in 2010 when the rate dropped to 34.3% and again in 2011 when it dropped to 31.3%. Across the state there are wide fluctuations in the teen pregnancy rate for 15-19 year olds from a low of 9.5% in Putnam County to a high of 106.9% in the Bronx. Chautauqua County is well above the national and upstate percentage.

### Comparative Teen Pregnancy Rates, 2007 – 2009

Location	15 - 19 Year Olds Per 1000
Chautauqua County	48.6
Oswego County	41.2
Upstate NY	37.4
USA	34.3

Source: NYS Department of Health

It is alarming that the rate of pregnancy among 15 – 19 year olds is higher in Chautauqua County than in any of the comparison communities. Of even greater concern is the fact that the rate in Chautauqua County had been decreasing annually from a high of 51.1 per 1,000 in 2001 and reached a low of 42.3 in 2007. It is unknown why the rate is now increasing once again, but it bears further investigation and review.

Teen Pregnancy Rates by ZIP codes in Chautauqua County for 2008 – 2010 show a wide variation by location with Dunkirk topping the list at 87.6 teen pregnancies per 1000 females 15-19 followed by Jamestown at 76.8, Sherman at 70.2, Sinclairville at 65.4, and Falconer at 58.2. County zip codes with the lowest teen pregnancy rates are Panama 7.2 and Fredonia at 11.3 per 1000.

The chart below has specific health indicators by race, but the teen pregnancy rate is for 15-17 year olds not 15-19 year olds, so they are not comparable with the two previous charts or the zip code rates.

However, while the 15-17 year old teen pregnancy rate for Hispanics is more than twice that of white teens, the actual number of babies born to all Hispanic mothers, both teens and adult, is very low. The three year average number of **total births to all ages** per year is 1409 with 85% to white mothers, 11% to Hispanic mothers and .01% to black mothers.

Health Indicator	Non-Hispanic			Hispanic	Total
	White	Black	Asian/Pacific Islander		
<b>Socio-Demographic Indicators</b>					
Population (2011)	120,791	3,567	885	8,463	134,368
Percent of Population (2011)	89.9%	2.7%	0.7%	6.3%	100.0%
Median Annual Household Income in US Dollars~	42,020	24,122	0	17,044	40,711
Percent of Families Below Poverty~	11.7%	0.0%	0.0%	61.2%	14.0%
<b>General Health Indicators</b>					
Total Mortality per 100,000, Age-adjusted	771.4	707.0	s	808.3	774.3
<b>Birth-Related Indicators</b>					
Number of Births per Year (3 Year Average)	1,200	22	8	148	1,409
Percent Births with Early (1st Trimester) Prenatal Care	69.5%	s	s	64.9%	68.5%
Percent Adequate Prenatal Care (Kotelchuck Index)	62.3%	s	s	56.3%	61.2%
Percent Premature Births (< 37 Weeks Gestation)	12.0%	s	s	14.8%	12.3%
Percent Low Birthweight Births (< 2.5 Kg)	7.8%	s	s	11.7%	8.3%
Teen (Age 15-17) Pregnancy Rate per 1,000	24.4	27.9*	0.0*	58.6	28.2
Total Pregnancy Rate per 1,000 Age 15-44 Females	66.8	57.2	46.9	99.1	70.3
Fertility Rate per 1,000 (All Births/Female Population 15-44)	54.4	33.0	37.8	83.9	56.6

Source: NYS Department of Health

## SMOKING

Tobacco use is a major health concern and cost. The Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids reports that there are 23,900 new youth smokers per year in New York State.

According to the American Lung Association:

- ◆ Teenage girls often start to smoke to avoid weight gain and to identify themselves as independent and glamorous, which reflect images projected by tobacco advertising. Cigarette advertising portrays cigarettes as causing slimness and implies that cigarette smoking suppresses appetite.
- ◆ The decline in smoking among high school girls has slowed recently. Between 1999 and 2003, cigarette smoking prevalence among high school girls decreased by 37 percent. However, between 2003 and 2007, there was only a 2.3 percent decrease in prevalence of cigarette use among high school girls, according to the American
- ◆ Middle school white girls had the highest percentage of smoking (8.6 percent) in 2004.

The Pride New York State Youth Development Survey (YDS) conducted in the Spring 2011 of more than 1200 north county students in grades 7 to 12, indicated that in the 30 days prior to the survey 9.9% of youth responding had used cigarettes and 5.1% had used chewing tobacco. 86.5% of respondents perceive harm from smoking regularly with 90.1% of 12<sup>th</sup> graders reporting potential harm.

Low to high ranges can be used to demonstrate community differences and the need for addressing data in communities.

Combination Scores for Grades 7-12	North County (1088)			Individual Districts (North & South) (1385)	
	Compilation %	% Score more desirable	% Score least desirable	% Score more desirable	% Score least desirable
30 day use- Cigarettes	9.9	7.2	13.4	3.0	13.4
30 day use- Chewing Tobacco	5.1	2.2	8.7	2.7	7.6
Avg age of 1st use-Cig	12.4 yrs	11.7 yrs	12.6 yrs	12.3 yrs	13.3 yrs

Source: Pride YDS Survey - 2011

## ALCOHOL

Serious health and social and economic problems result from the use of alcohol by youth. Underage drinking is a causal factor in a host of problems including homicide, suicide, traumatic injury, drowning, burns, violent and property crime, high risk sex, fetal alcohol syndrome, alcohol poisoning and the need for treatment for alcohol abuse and dependence.

Results from the YDS survey of 1200 north county students conducted in 2011 indicate that “alcohol is the most widely used drug among Chautauqua County youth”. Perception of risk is lower for alcohol than for tobacco.

One in four 24.8% of students taking the survey reported drinking alcohol in the prior 30 days. Additionally, 56.7% of respondents in grades 7-12 have had a full alcoholic drink at least once in their lives and 25.2% percent of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders reported binge drinking (consuming 4 or more drinks in a row). Binge drinking is a particularly dangerous drinking pattern characterized by bouts of heavy consumption that can lead to injury, illness, addiction and even death.

According to the survey report, comparisons with national peers show higher lifetime and 30 day use for local students in grades 8, 10 and 12. Use by females is slightly higher (25.8%) than for males (23.9%). Most youth obtain alcohol from someone over age 21, but 7.6% drank at home with their parents' permission. The average age of first alcohol use is 12.9 years and for regular use (drinking alcohol at least once or twice a month) is 14.2.

	North County (1088)			Individual Districts (North & South) (1385)	
	Compilation %	% Score more desirable	% Score least desirable	% Score more desirable	% Score least desirable
30 day Alcohol Use	24.8	17.9	37.3	11.6	29.9
Avg Age of 1st Use	12.9 yrs	12.1 yrs	13.2 yrs	12.6 yrs	13.7 yrs
Heavy Use - Binge Drinking	15.0	11.4	23.7	6.6	20.6
Perception of Risk	68.6	64.2	73.2	73.2	63.8

Source: Pride YDS Survey - 2011

To date the same YDS survey has been completed by four of the south county school districts and it mirrors the north county data with alcohol being the drug of choice with marijuana being a close second. Very high risk factors for alcohol/drug use include poor family management/family conflict and parental attitudes toward anti-social behavior. As many as one in three respondents reported drinking at home.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Certain risk factors may make the female population vulnerable to substance abuse. A three-year study on women and young girls (aged 8–22) revealed that girls and young women use substances for different reasons than boys and young men. The study found that risk factors such as low self-esteem, peer pressure, and depression make girls and young women more vulnerable to substance use as well as addiction, in that females become dependent faster and suffer the consequences sooner, compared to males. (National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, *The Formative Years: Pathways to Substance Abuse Among Girls and Young Women Ages 8–22* (PDF), February 2003).

## MARIJUANA

After alcohol, marijuana is the next most commonly used drug by Chautauqua County youth. By 12<sup>th</sup> grade more than half (53.2%) of youth have tried it at least once and more than a third (36.9%) are current users (within the past 30 days). According to the Chautauqua Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Council report on the YDS, current local use rates exceed national rates for lifetime and past 30 day use in grades 8, 10

and 12. Further, they go on to note noticeable increases in use from grade to grade with rates more than doubling between grades 7 and 8, and double again from grades 10 to 12. Students reported that their parents would disapprove of their using marijuana, but more than half 57% do not consider it harmful. The average age of first marijuana use is 13.7 years.

It should be noted specifically that the perception of risk and harm for marijuana use is considerably lower than both tobacco and alcohol. The current state of the issues causes a fair amount of confusion for both adults and youth. Efforts to provide accurate awareness information remain a priority.

## PHARMACEUTICALS\*

According to the same YDS survey, pharmaceuticals are being misused at an increasing rate locally and nationally, with prescription pain killers being most common and often mixed with alcohol. Past 30 day use range from a low of 4.2% in 7<sup>th</sup> grade to a high of 13% in 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

\*Over-the-counter (OTC) cold medicine and caffeine/diet pills and any use of these prescription drugs without a doctor's order: pain killers, tranquilizers, sedatives and stimulants.

## OTHER DRUGS

The YDS survey shows the 30 day use rate for other drugs among county youth is low with ecstasy and hallucinogens below 1%, and cocaine use at 1.2%, Inhalant use, more common in younger children due to easy access, peaks at 4.7% in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and drops to less than 1% in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

	North County (1088)			Individual Districts (North & South) (1385)	
	Compilation %	% Score more desirable	% Score least desirable	% Score more desirable	% Score least desirable
Any illicit drug use* <i>* includes all drugs except alcohol and tobacco</i>	23.5	15.9	29.7	7.6	22.3
30 day use-MJ	15.7	10.1	21.2	6.5	17.9
Perception of risk-MJ	43.0	36.6	45.8	75.2	33.3

Source: Pride YDS Survey - 2011

## "Risk and Protective Factors for Positive Youth Development"

Strength to Build On 1st most common 2nd 3rd 4th	North County (1088)			Individual Districts (North & South) (1385)	
	Compilation %	% Score more desirable	% Score least desirable	% Score more desirable	% Score least desirable
<b>Risk Factors (Community, Family, School and Individual/Peer Domains)</b>					
Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	37.6	28.8	50.4	23.7	50.2
Perceived Availability of Drugs	43.6	35.7	48.7	30.3	46.9
Poor Family Management	48.0	33.8	65.1	44.3	57.3
Family Conflict	43.1	38.4	52.0	36.1	48.2
Parental Attitudes Towards ATOD	42.4	29.2	54.1	31.2	55.3
Parental Attitudes Towards ASB	56.9	46.9	68.0	53.5	63.8
Low Commitment to School	51.4	41.1	68.5	33.1	59.1
Perceived Risk of Drug Use	45.6	40.1	51.0	39.0	56.4
Friends Use of Drugs	40.4	24.4	50.0	20.3	44.7

- ◆ Those in the chart are the most common Risk Factors that make up the top four areas of concerns across the districts.
- ◆ Beliefs, attitudes and behaviors that are favorable towards alcohol and other drug use and abuse have an impact on youth behaviors.
- ◆ Perception of and actual availability and access to alcohol and other drugs has an impact on youth behaviors.
- ◆ A focus on the family is imperative. Issues within the family domain are predictive of youth problem behaviors.
- ◆ Having an accurate understanding of the risks of use is important as well as the understanding that perceived and actual prevalence rates influence youth behavior.

Strength to Build On ■ 1st most common ■ 2nd ■ 3rd ■ 4th	North County (1088)			Individual Districts (North & South) (1385)	
	Compilation %	% Score more desirable	% Score least desirable	% Score more desirable	% Score least desirable
<b>Protective Factors (Community, Family, School and Individual/Peer Domains)</b>					
Family Attachment	41.8	51.1	34.5	54.1	35.0
Family Opportunities for PSI	50.0	59.3	39.6	61.1	45.3
Family Reward for PSI	52.0	59.2	34.1	60.1	39.5
School Reward for PSI	50.6	59.7	39.1	59.0	36.5
Social Skills*	60.2	69.3	50.6	73.8	55.6
I/P-Pro-social Involvement	50.2	61.4	41.5	61.3	37.3
Peer Rewards for PSI	56.8	65.9	49.8	63.5	52.0

- ◆ While focusing on the risks, it is equally important to enhance protective factors within the family domain.
- ◆ Enhancing rewards, or feeling the benefits and recognition, for being involved in positive, healthy activities is a need across the domains.
- ◆ \*Social Skills is not in the top 4, but is the most likely protective factor to be addressed by face-to-face programming ~ whether low and an area of concern or high as strength to build on.

## BULLYING/HARASSMENT

According to *Child Trends*, bullying is a form of aggressive unprovoked behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior encompasses physical aggression, threats, teasing and/or harassment. It can be physical, verbal or social and is an unacceptable anti-social behavior that is learned through influences in the environment, e.g. home, school, peer groups. According to *Child Trends* and other anti-bullying websites, cyber bullying is becoming more common. This type of bullying has gotten significant media attention as in some instances it has led to teen suicide. It is estimated that three in ten middle and high school students are involved in bullying either as perpetrators, bystanders, victims or some combination of the three.

According to the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), bullying:

- ◆ Is more prevalent in boys than girls, though this difference decreases when considering indirect aggression such as verbal threats.
- ◆ Bullying is the most common form of violence in our society; between 15% and 30% of students are bullies or victims.
- ◆ A recent report from the American Medical Association on a study of over 15,000 6th-10th graders estimates that approximately 3.7 million youths engage in, and more than 3.2 million are victims of, moderate or serious bullying each year.



- ◆ Membership in either bully or victim groups is associated with school dropout, poor psychosocial adjustment, criminal activity and other negative long-term consequences.
- ◆ Direct, physical bullying increases in elementary school, peaks in middle school and declines in high school.
- ◆ Over two-thirds of students surveyed believe that schools respond poorly to bullying, with a high percentage of students believing that adult help is infrequent and ineffective.

It is estimated that around 15% of youth 10 to seventeen bully others with some frequency. A study using the data from the *2007 National Survey of Children's Health* examined associations among child, parent, and community factors in terms of bullying perpetration among children aged 10 to 17 years with the following results:

*African American and Latino children and children living in poverty and who had emotional, developmental, or behavioral (EDB) problems had higher odds of bullying, as did children of parents who felt angry with their child or who felt their child bothered them a lot or was hard to care for; suboptimal maternal mental health was associated with higher bullying odds. Children who always or usually completed homework and had parents who talked with them and met all or most of their friends had lower bullying odds.*

A 2010-2011 study of 1965 6<sup>th</sup> to 12 grade students, conducted by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) indicated that 36% of girls and 24% of boys experienced some type of online sexual harassment.

Local statistics on bullying are not readily available, but area school districts have initiated Anti-bullying organizations and are trying to engage area students in stopping this behavior. Researchers advocate school-wide prevention programs that promote a positive school and community climate and include early intervention, parent and teacher training and changing the attitude of “kids will be kids”.

## SUMMARY

Teen girls in Chautauqua County:

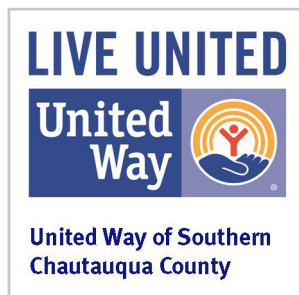
- Have a higher rate of teen pregnancy (48.6 per 1000 15-19 year olds) than the national (34.3 per 1000 and on the decline) and upstate NY (37.4 per 1000),
- Like their peers in other parts of the country may smoke to avoid weight gain and identify themselves as glamorous, even though they understand that smoking is harmful,
- Consume alcohol at a slightly higher percentage (25.8%) than their male counterparts (23.9%) based on the YDS survey,
- May experience bullying and harassment but local data is not readily available.

## Recommendations

- Support teen pregnancy prevention programs and efforts.
- Develop/support/enhance violence prevention programs (bullying/harassment/date violence.)
- Support mentoring programs and programs designed to strengthen families.







**United Way of Southern Chautauqua County**

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